



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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DCR Making Traffic and Safety Improvements to Intersection in Watertown

WATERTOWN—May 30, 2012—The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) began traffic and safety improvements to the intersection of Greenough Boulevard and Grove Street in Watertown, Massachusetts last week. The project is scheduled to be completed by July, 31, 2012. The plans include signaling the intersection of the two streets making it safe and accessible for vehicles, bikers, and pedestrians.

“DCR is committed to improving public safety both in our parks and along our roads,” said DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr. “This is a great improvement to Greenough Boulevard.”

The project aims to do this by improving traffic movement and signal light crossing. Presently, stop signage is the only method of traffic control at the T-intersection of Greenough Boulevard and Grove Street. This presents traffic congestion and safety risks for vehicles and pedestrians. Additionally, The Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike Path runs along the Charles River on Greenough Boulevard, but there are no current safety traffic measures allowing pedestrians or bikers the right of way when crossing from one side of the street to another. The goals of this project include balancing and accommodating the needs of various user groups, including cyclists, pedestrians, joggers along the pathways, as well as vehicles.

DCR worked with the delegation after hearing from community members that the lack of a pedestrian crossing created safety concerns.

“I really appreciate DCR’s close attention to safety issues,” said Senator William Brownsberger. “I look forward to a continuing partnership with Rep. Hecht and DCR to make further improvements along the river.”

“I want to thank Commissioner Lambert for giving priority to these safety improvements and finding money, in a tight budget, to get them done,” said Representative Jonathan Hecht. “Neighborhood residents, Watertown Town Councilor Angie Kounelis, and my predecessors Steve Tolman and Rachel Kaprielian were tireless in their advocacy for these changes and I’m very pleased to see them happen.”

The project will cost an estimated \$120,000. In addition to new traffic lights at the T-intersection of Greenough and Grove, a cross-walk and pedestrian actuated signaling will be created connecting the Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike path that runs along the Charles River, to the other side of the road.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr., the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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